

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8648

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

S E C R E T HONG KONG 11198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, OCON

SUBJ: CONGEN ATTENDANCE AT TAIPEI CONFERENCE ON PRC

REF: STATE 217433 PEKING 1331 TAIPEI 6707 PEKING 1348

1. USLO IS OF COURSE IN BETTER POSITION THAN HONG KONG TO ASSESS THE BALANCE OF FORCES WITHIN PRC LEADERSHIP FOR AND AGAINST FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN PRC-US RELATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, FROM OUR PAROCHIAL STANDPOINT, IT WOULD SEEM TO US THAT IF PRC WERE TO EVIDENCE ANY SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE REACTION TO IIR CONFERENCE OR TO LOW-KEYED OBSERVER-LEVEL USG INVOLVEMENT THEREIN, THEY WOULD MERELY BE USING THIS AS A PRETEXT. AND IF THEY ARE THAT ANXIOUS TO FIND A PRETEXT, THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN KEEP THEM FROM FINDING ONE.

2. AGAIN FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, IT DOES NOT SEEM TO US THAT THE PRC IS IN FACT LOOKING FOR A PRETEXT OF THIS SORT. CONGEN'S RELATIONS WITH LOCAL PRC OFFICIALS (NCNA, CHINA RESOURCES, BANK OF CHINA, ETC.) ARE EXTREMELY FRIENDLY. SAME FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP EXISTS WITH PRC OFFICIALS AT CANTON FAIR. MOST OF THESE OFFICIALS REALIZE THAT WE TRANSLATE CHINESE MATERIALS AND FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA, INCLUDING PLA MATTERS. THEY ALSO KNOW THAT MANY OF OUR OFFICERS SERVED IN TAIWAN, STUDIED CHINESE THERE, AND VISIT OCCASIONALLY. WHILE PRC SECURITY ELEMENTS MUST BE CONCERNED ABOUT SOME OF CONGEN'S

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FUNCTIONS, THERE HAS BEEN NO LINKAGE BETWEEN KMT ESPIONAGE

UNITS IN HONG KONG AND CONGEN ELEMENTS. PRC, WHICH HAS PREUMABLY PENETRATED SEVERAL KMT UNITS HERE, MUST BE AWARE THAT USG AND CONGEN NOT INVOLVED.

3. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE ARE IN A SOUNDER POSITION TACTICALLY IF, WHILE CONTINUING TO REAFFIRM AND DEMONSTRATE AS APPROPRIATE OUR COMPLETE FAITHFULNESS TO THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, WE ALSO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE OUR RIGHT TO MAINTAIN A FULL RANGE OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE GRC, LEAVING IT UP TO THE PRC TO OBJECT IF THEY FEEL JUSTIFIED IN DOING SO. IF WE BECOME EXCESSIVELY CAUTIOUS ABOUT ANY AND ALL INTERACTIONS WITH THE GRC AT THIS STAGE, WHILE WE STILL RETAIN AN EMBASSY IN TAIPEI, WE MIGHT CREATE A PRESUMPTION THAT DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF PEKING WOULD IMPLY A COMPLETE CESSATION OF CONTACT WITH TAIWAN.

4. IT IS FROM THIS PAROCHIAL STANDPOINT THAT THERE SEEMS TO US NO HARM AND PERHAPS SOME ADVANTAGE IN ALLOWING DLO OFFICER TO ATTEND SUBJECT CONFERENCE IN OBSERVER STATUS. FURTHER, BARRING SOMEEXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT IN US-PRC RELATIONS, AND DEPENDING ON OUR WORKLOAD AT TIME OF CONFERENCE (WE ARE SHORTHANDED IN POLITICAL SECTION JUST NOW), I WOULD EVEN SEE NO PARTICULAR OBJECTION TO HAVING ONEOF OUR POLITICAL OFFICERS ATTEND, ALSO AS OBSERVER.
OSBORN

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